



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**Federal Funds Awarded to Strengthen Mental Health  
Services for Hawaii's Children**

A new \$700,000 federal grant awarded to the Hawaii State Department of Health will help to strengthen positive support practices used in the care of Hawaii's children and youth with emotional and behavioral disturbances.

Michelle Hill, Deputy Director for Behavioral Health said, "This was a very competitive grant program, and we are very pleased that our state was funded for the full amount requested. These funds mean improving the quality of care for some of Hawaii's most vulnerable children."

The grant will fund an innovative approach to staff training which uses on-site consultation by teams of experts and the development of local provider expertise among State-contracted residential programs. Project goals include strengthening providers' behavior management practices, promoting the use of evidence-based techniques and helping providers share successful Residential Programming strategies with one another.

The Department of Health's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division was awarded the three-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration under the "State Incentive Grant Program to Build Capacity for Alternatives to Restraint and Seclusion." The grant provides over \$230,000 per year for three years.

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